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# Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK/RGHOUDEK:IW
APPROVED BY P:MR. HABIB
AF:AMBASSADOR SEELYE
S/S - FVORTIZ
---------- 100862
R 030254Z DEC 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

S E C R E T STATE 294574

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, MILI, US, GV, US

SUBJECT: SUPPRESSION OF SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS FROM CONAKRY

REF: (A) CONAKRY 2355 (NODIS); (B) STATE 288315

1. THE DISCONTINUANCE OF SOVIET SURVEILLANCE FLIGHTS FROM CONAKRY REMAINS A USG OBJECTIVE BUT THE DEPARTMENT IS UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO HOW DIFFICULT IT WILL BE TO ACHIEVE. YOUR LAUDABLE INITIATIVE EARLIER THIS YEAR IN ATTEMPTING TO CURTAIL THE FLIGHTS UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT WORK. WE REALIZED THE ODDS WERE AGAINST US BUT FELT IT WAS WORTH AN EFFORT AS THE APPARENT COSTS TO THE US WERE MINIMAL.

2. WE SIMPLY DO NOT WISH TO DEVELOP A SPECIAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH A PARANOID TOTALITARIAN REGIME HAVING ONE OF THE MOST DISMAL HUMAN RIGHTS RECORDS IN AFRICA. WE THEREFORE CANNOT PROVIDE THE "SECURITY
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GUARANTEE" REQUESTED BY PRESIDENT TOURE. WE HAVE STUDIED

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HIS SECURITY SITUATION IN DETAIL AND CONCLUDE THAT NO
CREDIBLE EXTERNAL THREAT EXISTS. IF NO CREDIBLE THREAT

EXISTS AND WE CANNOT PROVIDE THE SECURITY GUARANTEE HE
SEEKS, THEN WE SHOULD SEEK TO DISCOURAGE FURTHER DIS-
CUSSION WITH TOURE OF HIS SECURITY ANXITIES. PLAYING
SEMANTIC GAMES WITH THE MERCURIAL AND ERRATIC GUINEAN
PRESIDENT IS LIKELY ONLY TO GET US IN DEEPER IN AN AREA
WHERE WE ARE NEITHER WILLING NOR ABLE TO DELIVER WHAT
HE WANTS. WE DO NOT WISH TO BE CONSTANTLY ASKED BY THE
GOG TO COMPLAIN TO THE IVORY COAST AND SENEGAL ABOUT IM-
AGINED THREATS OR TO ENCOURAGE INVOLUNTARY REPATRIATION
OF GUINEAN EXILES TO AN UNCERTAIN FATE.

3. INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, WE WISH TO MOVE AWAY FROM WHAT
GUINEANS SEE AS A DIRECT RPT DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN
THE SOVIET FLIGHTS AND OUR HUMANITARIAN PL-480 PROGRAM.
AMBASSADOR BAH HAS BEEN INFORMED (SEPTEL) THAT WE
WOULD BE WILLING TO WELCOME A GOG PL-480 DELEGATION IN
WASHINGTON EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND THAT WE WILL COMMUNICATE
AN ACCEPTABLE DATE TO HIM LATER. WE WISH TO MAINTAIN
PRESSURE ON THE GUINEANS CONCERNING THE FLIGHTS BUT
PREFER TO DO IT IN A LESS DIRECT MANNER. FOR THE TIME
BEING WE PLAN TO KEEP THE GUINEANS GUESSING REGARDING
10,000 TON RICE PACKAGE.

ROBINSON

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PINT, MILI, US, GV, UR
**To:** CONAKRY
**Type:** TE
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